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**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
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TO THE MEMORY OF  
PROFESSOR KINZŌ SENO



Kinzō SENO

1905-1964

## **Eulogy of Professor Kinzō SENO**

Professor Kinzō Seno was born on June 17, 1905 in Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture and passed away on August 11, 1964. In 1929, he entered Kyoto University and graduated there in 1932, receiving a degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1933, he was appointed as assistant at Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University. Professor Seno devoted himself at the University, both to the development of research work and to teaching, throughout a long period of about thirty years.

The research fields of Professor Seno were very wide, covering almost all problems related to the nature of inland waters. For an appreciation of Professor Seno's research activity, it may be convenient to divide it into three periods. For about 13 years after graduation from Kyoto University, he made field observations on hot springs in Beppu Spa under the guidance of the late Professor Emeritus Takaharu Nomitsu. He devoted himself to finding the geophysical properties of hot springs, which had been so far studied mostly from the view point of geology or chemistry. In 1939, he was appointed assistant professor at Beppu Geophysical Research Station, Kyoto University. In 1942, the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on him in honor of his original article: "Distribution of Certain Geophysical Elements in the Hot Springs District of Beppu", which made clear the physical mechanism of fluctuating phenomena of hot springs by his excellent investigation. At the same time, he presented a classical article about constituents of salt in hot spring water.

After World War II, Professor Seno changed his post to the Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University and continued hydrological research. We may call it the second period, in which Professor Seno's interest widely extended into many hydrological and hydrothermal problems. He pioneered the practical method of pumping test to predict the possibility of future development of hot spring area. This research also contributed to the finding of the physical properties of underground structure in thermal area. He surveyed numerous spas in Japan to collect data about hot springs and gave proper suggestions for the improvement of hot springs. On the other hand, Professor Seno was an excellent leader for many researchers and contributed to the progress of newly developed geophysics of hot springs.

In 1961, he was promoted to professor at the Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University and, in addition, appointed Director of Beppu Geophysical Research

Station. It was the most significant period throughout his research life to approach the origin of hydrothermal activities. He strongly felt that the conditions of hydrothermal activity could not be fully understood without broad knowledge of geosciences. He made great efforts in the difficult work of combining individual research fields, and thus played an important role in academic societies such as the Japanese Society of Limnology, the Balneological Society of Japan and the Geochemical Society of Japan. Also, he was a member of the Committee of Geophysical Research Connection in Science Council of Japan.

He was expected to establish much greater achievements not only in Japan but also in the world, but, regrettably, on August 11, 1964, he slept the final sleep. Professor Seno was the pioneer in the field of geophysics of hot springs in Japan. His great contribution will be admired forever. His successors are about to rise from deep sadness, and to carry out his purpose.

The soul of Professor Seno! Please protect our future and guide us in the path of righteousness.

September 1965

by Kyōzō Kikkawa



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